Examiner requires the following:

"Applicant must discuss and explain how the claims avoid the reference or distinguish from them. Moreover, applicant should cite where is the teaching in specification of the newly added claim languages." (Notice, continuation sheet.)

Inasmuch as changes were not required to the Remarks section, that section was not resubmitted in their response of 3 Dec 2004, and Applicants understood that the Remarks section of the amendment submitted on or about 6 Aug 2004 would be referred to by the Examiner for a discussion of the prior art references applied under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103.

Applicants repeat hereafter that discussion of the art references, this time adding reference to the Specification for newly added claim language as required by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-14, 20-25, and 31-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Tang et al. (U.S. Patent 5,960,173,

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hereinafter Tang).

Tang relates to a system for enabling awareness of and communication among users who are task proximate. These are workers who are working on the same or related data, with the same or related applications, at about the same time. (See Col. 2, lines 29-40.) However, Tang does not teach Applicants "place" in collaboration space, the instantiation of which includes a main database, having an access control list, and a names database.

Independent claims 1, 7, 20, and 31-33 have been amended to distinguish the Tang reference by reciting the structure of a collaboration space as characterized by a main database having an access control list and a names database. This structure is taught in the Specification, as follows:

Place object 172 is a directory in the "QuickPlace" directory grouping resources for a Place. The Domino equivalent is a file directory bearing the name of the QuickPlace. Place object 172 is a directory that brings together a Place for organizational purposes. It also identifies the NSFs

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114 as belonging to the place 172 by bearing the name of the QuickPlace. As distinguished from a place object 172, the main room 174 in a QuickPlace is a database called Main.nsf. Place object 172 groups and identifies the Main.nsf resources for the Place and any subrooms 194 in the Place. Place object 172 contains several files. There is a Main.nsf, Contacts1.nsf and a Search.nsf file. If the QuickPlace has a Subroom 194 there will also be an NSF file with its name starting with "PageLibrary". Each of these page library files is a Room 174. [Specification, page 24, line 6 ff. Emphasis added.]

A member object 190 is a data note listing a user in the Contacts1.nsf. The Domino equivalent is a note in contacts1.nsf. Members 190 are records specifying user-access to a room 174. A member note contains information about a team member of a QuickPlace. In addition to this data, the member must be listed in the access control list (ACL) of main.nsf and in a group in names.nsf to pass authentication. [Specification, page 49, line 2 ff. Emphasis added.]

Therefore, applicants urge that claims 1-14, 20-25, and

31-33 be allowed.

35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 15-18, and 26-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Tang in view of Wick (U.S. Patent 6,691,162.)

Claims 19 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Tang in view of Wick and the article "Using AOL's Instant Messenger (Pages 1-3, Pennsylvania State University, October 2000, hereinafter Using AIM.)

Applicants have amended all independent claims 1, 7, 20, and 31-33 (and thus, claims 15-18, 26-29, 19 and 30) to specify that chat sessions may be initiated within collaboration space only by members authenticated with respect to the access control list on a main database, and with respect to the members database, these two databases instantiating a place. [See Specification material quoted above, from page 49.] None of Tang, Wick or Using AIM teach this aspect of Applicants' invention.

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Applicants describe this structure and process in their specification, in the material quoted above and as follows:

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, a manager of a QuickPlace may enabled [sic, enable] the chat feature, <u>allowing members to "chat" electronically with other QuickPlace members</u>. Referring to Figure 12, in a chat session, two or more <u>members</u> exchange messages by typing them in a chat window 538. As soon as the sender finishes typing a message, it appears on the receiver's screen 540. When the receiver replies to the message, the reply appears below the original message on both screens, so all parties have a temporary transcript of the chat session.... [Specification, page 86, line 8 ff. Emphasis added. See also, pages 87-91. Note: a "member" is represented by a data note in Contacts1.nsf. See Specification, Table 1, and the material quoted above from page 49.]

Applicants, therefore, urge that claims 15-19, and 26-30 be allowed.

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants urge that the case be passed to issue with claims 1-33.

                                          Sincerely,

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Date: 9 Jun 2005

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